

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SUPERINTENDENT HENDERSON LEWIS, JR., PHD

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr. has served as the Superintendent of NOLA Public Schools since March 18, 2015, becoming one of the youngest and longest tenured leaders in the 180-year history of public education in New Orleans. With over 25 years of educational experience as a teacher, mentor, assistant principal, instructional coach, curriculum expert, principal, and school district leader, Superintendent Lewis brings a unique, classroom focused perspective to the table.

Dr. Lewis first worked for the Algiers Charter Schools Association for six years, serving as the founding principal at Algiers Technology Academy. He taught for seven years at neighboring St. Bernard Parish Public Schools and represented District 9 on the St. Bernard Parish Public School Board for 11 years. Dr. Lewis then went on to become a celebrated superintendent for East Feliciana Parish, which is just north of Baton Rouge. Under his leadership, the district was recognized by the Louisiana Department of Education as second in the state for elementary student academic growth. Throughout his tenure at New Orleans Public Schools, he has not wavered from his mission as a citywide regulator of schools, a protector of family and student rights, and a thoughtful steward of public resources.

Superintendent Lewis has been at the helm of NOLA-PS during a pivotal time in the school system's history. He oversaw the 2018 unification of public schools in New Orleans with those schools run by the state of Louisiana. NOLA-PS now has 76 schools under the oversight of the Orleans Parish School Board.

Thanks to his team and his leadership, New Orleans community of schools is better structured today than ever before. NOLA-PS established an accountability framework that holds charter schools to high standards. During his tenure, Dr. Lewis has worked to add strong school options to the portfolio, including new and innovative school models, transformations, and replication of successful school models to provide the best possible options for students.

During his time as Superintendent, he faced the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. He helped NOLA-PS lead the way nationally by building partnerships, using data to drive decisions, and leading NOLA Public Schools through the COVID-19 pandemic. That work has helped NOLA-PS lead the way nationally when it came to reopening schools with adequate technology, gaining access to COVID testing, and securing access to vaccines. Dr. Lewis also coordinated the district-wide commitment to add the COVID-19 vac-

cine to the list of required vaccinations for students five years and up.

His dedication to promoting equality and equity led to the renaming of 21 school buildings in 2021 to separate the school system of today from the dubious honors bestowed in the past to slaveholders and segregation sympathizers. He also implemented an equity initiative within the school district to continue to advance public education as a right for all children, no matter their race, gender, or economic position.

At the heart of Dr. Lewis' work remains his unwavering commitment to the well-being and high-quality education of every child, every day.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEROY ARTHUR PETRY FOR NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY 2022

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Leroy Arthur Petry of Santa Fe, New Mexico for his life of service to our nation and in recognition of tomorrow's National Medal of Honor Day.

Just one year after graduating high school, Mr. Petry joined the United States Army in 1999.

Mr. Petry was deployed eight times, which included deployments to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

On May 26, 2008, Mr. Petry and his regiment came under fire from Taliban forces in Afghanistan. During this skirmish, he was wounded by a round that pierced both of his legs.

Although wounded, Mr. Petry led another Ranger to cover.

When a Taliban fighter threw a grenade that landed just a few feet from him and his fellow soldiers, Mr. Petry selflessly lunged forward, picked up the grenade, and threw it back in the direction of the Taliban fighters as it exploded.

At great personal cost, Mr. Petry saved the lives of his fellow soldiers.

For his courageous actions in Afghanistan, Mr. Petry was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama on July 12, 2011. He is the second living recipient of the medal after the Vietnam War.

Mr. Petry continues to serve his fellow veterans and his community. I am thankful to Mr. Petry for his service and tremendous sacrifice for our nation. It is an honor to represent him in Congress.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF COLE EVANS FOR WINNING THE DIVISION I WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school wrestler in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Cole Evans, a freshman at Perrysburg High School, has represented his school ably on his way to achieving the Division I State Wrestling Title. Cole overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in his effort to win the Division I State Wrestling Championship.

In pursuing the State Championship, Cole Evans defeated his opponent in the finals of the 106-pound classification. His hard work and dedication, both on and off the mat, in achieving this accomplishment is truly outstanding. Cole led his team to rank second place overall in the championship. He has achieved an impressive season record bringing pride to his school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Cole Evans of Perrysburg High School. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

REMEMBERING MARVIS JONES, ONE OF THE MEMPHIS STATE EIGHT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Marvis LaVerne Kneeland Jones, a renowned Memphis educator and one of the courageous Memphis State Eight who integrated then-Memphis State University in 1959 following the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling (1954) declaring segregation of public schools unconstitutional. Mrs. Jones was born in Chicago in 1941 and was raised in Memphis where she graduated from Hamilton High School. She obtained a master's degree from what is now the University of Memphis and taught in the Memphis City Schools for 25 years. As a civil rights trailblazer, her heroic integration of Memphis State opened the doors of opportunity to thousands. In 2006, the University honored the Memphis State Eight by recognizing their pioneering work desegregating the campus, and Mrs. Jones was among the remaining five who returned to the University in 2019 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their achievement. Mrs. Jones was a marvelous singer and piano player and tickled the ivories to the delight of audiences. She was married

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.